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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT Desertion and Low Morale among Chinese Communist Troops, South China

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. On 2 November, nine privates of the 3 Company, 1 Battalion, 436 Regiment stationed at Paip'eng (109-11, 24-08) deserted their unit. They were apprehended the following day and questioned by the company political officer about the reasons for their desertion. The soldiers stated that they had been in the army for over ten years, and that, during the Japanese war, they had hoped to go home at the end of the fighting but had instead fought on against the Nationalist armies. Furthermore, they had hoped to go home when the Nationalists were driven from the mainland, but they continued fighting against the guerrillas. Now that war in Korea had broken out and demobilization had ceased, they believed they would never see their homes again unless they ran away from the army.
2. There are persistent rumors that the morale of Chinese Communist troops in Kwangsi is very low and that many privates are deserting their units.* This is particularly true in the case of soldiers whose homes are in North China and Manchuria. Army authorities are trying with little success to combat low morale by urging the troops to protect the gains of the revolution.

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* Comment. See [redacted] a report of similar low morale and desertion in Yunnan.

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